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# AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Readers For The  
American Socialist  
Now Means Party  
Members Later On

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CHICAGO, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1917.

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## Hope For Nation In Dayton, O., Socialist Victory!

**"VICTORY has come to the people of Dayton, Ohio, thru the Socialist triumph, in an hour when it was most needed."**

This is the way the Miami Valley Socialist, mouthpiece of the Dayton, Ohio, Socialists, sums up the magnificent victory of our forces in last week's elections in this forward-looking, aspiring municipality. It continues:

"Altho the highest 'nonpartisan' candidate was 1,526 votes below the lowest Socialist, there was great rejoicing in the camp of the enemy. They consider themselves lucky to be on earth. It was an open contest of the people against the money power and the people won."

"It is estimated that the nonpartisan political machine spent \$50,000 to get half the votes the Socialists received with an expense not to exceed \$200."

### CLEAN SWEEP FOR 1918.

THIS inspiring Socialist achievement is the basis for the rallying cry, "FOR A CLEAN SWEEP IN 1918" now being raised by the national Socialist Party in an appeal for action sent to all state and local secretaries. Here it is:

Chicago, Illinois August 20, 1917.

Dear Comrade:

The capitalists' press said very little about the Dayton, Ohio, primary election. The result was displeasing to the daily news factory.

Here is what happened. A primary election for the nomination of candidates for commissioners was held in Dayton. The Socialists made their fight on a peace program and against the loot the 'respectable patriots' were annexing as a result of their 'interest' in municipal affairs. The result was that our comrades polled an average vote of 9,974, while the combined opposition polled an average of 10,530 votes, or only 756 votes more than the Socialists.

The highest Socialist candidate (Willard Barringer) received only 561 votes less than the two highest opponents combined. In other words, the highest Socialist candidate received 11,032 votes, while the highest 'nonpartisan' and the highest democrat combined received 11,593 votes.

The next highest Socialist candidate (Charles E. Geisler) had 9,293 votes, while the combined vote of the next highest 'nonpartisan' and democrat was 10,635.

The vote cast for the lowest Socialist candidate (Daniel P. Farrell) was 8,998, while the

combined vote for the lowest 'nonpartisan' and democrat was 9,360.

This is a fair sample of the popular sentiment throughout the country. The capitalist class is putting every atom of strength into motion to turn the tide of public opinion against our program. Our meetings are being interfered with, our papers are being suppressed, all in order to cut off the means of communication so the people will be at the complete mercy of the pro-war news factory.

We cannot afford to surrender to such a condition. We must act and act at once. Every member must be impressed with the seriousness of the times.

There will be municipal elections in many states this fall and next spring. They will be bitterly contested. We must prepare for them now. In the fall of 1918, we will have the most historic congressional elections that this nation has ever witnessed. We must prepare for them NOW. If our public meetings are suppressed, we must carry on individual organization work. Organization is the key to our success.

Every member of the party must appoint himself a recruiting officer. The recruiting must go on every day. If it cannot be done on the street corner or at mass meetings, it can be done with equal force in the shop, among neighbors and friends. In writing to locals, branches and individual comrades, impress upon them that these are recruiting days, and it is our opportunity and our duty to make the nation safe for democracy. FORWARD, FOR A CLEAN SWEEP IN 1918!

### VOTE RESULT IN DETAIL.

IT WAS first reported that the Socialist candidates had received more votes than all the other candidates combined. Later reports indicate that this was slightly exaggerated. The result of the election was as follows:

#### SOCIALISTS

Willard Barringer ..... 11,017  
Chas. E. Geisler ..... 9,293  
Daniel P. Farrell ..... 8,998

#### NON-PARTISAN

Jesse M. Switzer ..... 7,423  
Geo. W. Shroyer ..... 6,767  
A. I. Mendenhall ..... 6,448

#### DEMOCRATS

Geo. P. Huffman ..... 3,881  
Geo. F. Kem ..... 3,508  
J. A. Oswald ..... 2,781

#### INDEPENDENT

Herbert E. Kelley ..... 574  
J. C. Kennel ..... 558  
T. R. Jones ..... 430  
F. J. Nurrenbrock ..... 277

Dayton is one of the big cities of Ohio, situated half way between Cincinnati and Columbus. In 1910 it had a population of 116,577. One of the most widely known manufacturing establishments of the city is the National Cash Register Co., known as the cash register trust, which the government has

tried to break on several occasions. The city was established in 1796, more than 120 years ago. In 1900 it had only 10,053 foreign born residents.

"The campaign to elect the three Socialist commissioners will be the best test of the minds of the American people ever staged in Dayton," declares the Miami Valley Socialist. "Dayton is a fairly representative American city. Right is on our side and money on the other. There will probably be \$100,000 spent in an effort to save the city for the profit takers. Every conceivable means of deception will be employed to discredit the Socialist candidates."

"Three daily papers will be belching forth their foul charges that the Socialists are not good citizens. But the people will have a chance to prove their ability to keep their heads and do their own thinking in November."

### PEOPLE FILED THEIR PROTEST.

THE PAPERS and spokesmen of the Democratic party explain their small vote on the grounds "of the unsettled condition of public opinion caused by the war" and say that the people took "this opportunity to file a protest against the party that happens to be in power thruout the nation."

This means that the election was something more than merely a municipal one. It was the first political notice served on the Democratic administration that the war and conscription are decidedly not popular with the people and that the things that the Socialists stand for are popular.

The Dayton Daily News, the organ of the owning, employing class, has this to say about the election: "It was a notable triumph for the Socialists. They seem, in fact to have left very little glory to any one else."

"The Socialists announced in their platform that they favored a complete overthrow of the government, and on this issue they have approximately as many votes as all the others combined."

"World events gave the Socialist spellbinder a decided street corner advantage, and as we very frankly stated the present regime was not popular with the great mass of the voters."

The News reaffirms its position that a combined fight should be made against the Socialists. It will require every ounce of opposition strength to defeat them.

The American Socialist's Dayton correspondent writes that against the Socialists were arrayed three capitalist dailies, the wealth of the National Cash Register Company's president, John H. Patterson, and the pulpits of the city. On our side there was only the Miami Valley Socialist and the street corner collections.

### OHIO'S GOVERNOR FILES EXCUSE.

JAMES M. COX, governor of Ohio, who lives in Dayton and is the inspiration for the local democratic forces, has joined those who are trying to belittle the Socialist victory by claiming it was due entirely to local conditions.

While the Socialists were able to meet and overcome the opposition on national and international issues, they were also more than equal to the old party candidates on local issues.

The principal lines of local Socialist attack were

directed against the Dayton street railway lines, the ice trust, the gas trust, and a city administration dominated by big business.

The party platform protests against herding of workmen and women into crowded street cars and charging a flat 5 cent fare in order that a corporation in Philadelphia may draw fat dividends. The Socialists want a full seat for every fare paid or an effort will be made to take away the franchise, or failing in that, to establish a municipal bus line.

### SCORES ICE MONOPOLY.

IT PROTESTS against a monopoly in control of the ice output which forces prices above the reach of the poor and offers the people a chance to establish a municipal ice plant at which the product would be sold at cost.

It protests against the gas trust which has jammed thru a raise of 4 cents per thousand feet. It protests against the governing of the city by an alleged Citizens' committee which has not so much as discussed the thousands of abuses which the people have endured at the hands of organized profiteers, let alone take action against them.

It proposes to rid the city of the burden of extravagance and to prove that the city can be run on its income without juggling funds.

It proposes a municipal light plant, to furnish light and current at a fair price.

### YEARS OF HARD WORK.

BACK of the clean sweep made by the Dayton Socialists lies a story of four years of hard, uphill fighting by the local comrades against overwhelming odds.

At the last election the margin of victory was so close that the Socialist candidates were counted out thru the machinations and chicanery of local powerful interests. This time, however, the vote was so tremendous that even the capitalist papers had to admit that the Socialists scored a notable triumph.

The victory was one of the most remarkable ever won by a political party in an American city. The much-advertised Dayton plan of city government had carefully provided for the elimination of Socialist candidates at the primaries. The so-called non-partisan charter allows the nomination of not more than double the number of city commissioners to be elected.

There is no city council in Dayton. Five city commissioners constitute the executive board. They choose a city manager, who is chief executive. At the time the charter was written the Socialist vote was not large enough to nominate their candidates. Thus big business was able to rid the city government of the two Socialists from Socialist wards. All commissioners were elected at large.

The elements backing the new plan of city government overestimated the strength of the Socialists four years ago. In their anxiety to protect the special interests they concluded that it would be possible to wipe out the Socialist vote by declaring the city elections nonpartisan.

The same elements proceeded at once to organize a partisan machine. The new political party was called the citizens' committee, and was backed by the Greater Dayton association. The G. D. A. is the

outgrowth of the old chamber of commerce. The citizens' committee was started by the old chamber of commerce, and includes only a carefully selected membership. A great cry of nonpartisanship was the slogan of the newly-organized forces. They were swept into power.

The new city officials were not long in office before they learned that men who declared themselves to be nonpartisan still had political notions. At the end of two years two commissioners were to be elected. The nonpartisans came out with their candidates, likewise the Democrats and Socialists. There were four nominated, two Democrats, one Socialist and one nonpartisan.

### SOCIALIST COUNTED OUT.

AT THE election one of the Democrats led the field. Willard Barringer, Socialist, was declared elected over the nonpartisan candidate by two votes. The next day he was counted out by eight votes. The city charter made it necessary for the Socialist to go to the city commission, of which the questionably elected candidate was a member, to ask for a recount. The candidate was able to deny the people the right to question his election.

The matter was taken to court. But as Dayton operates under the home rule provisions of the state constitution the decision of the city commission was declared to be final. The people were enraged. They believed they had been cheated out of representation in city affairs. Last Tuesday Barringer ran 3703 votes ahead of his nearest opponent. The lowest Socialist was 1,594 votes ahead of the highest opponent. The total Socialist vote was nearly equal to the combined vote of the Democrats and nonpartisans. The Democratic candidates were all eliminated. The final contest is now between the three nonpartisan and three Socialist candidates. The nonpartisan candidates to win must carry all of the Democratic votes.

### TRICKERY OF OLD PARTIES.

THIS is where the joker comes in. As there were but six to be nominated at the primaries, the business interests could not allow a chance to defeat the Socialists at the polls to pass. If there had not been three organized tickets the Socialists would have been nominated unopposed. So the G. D. A. ran two tickets, the nonpartisan and Democratic.

In their efforts to attract attention and overshadow the Socialists a bitter fight developed between the sham-battlers. The leaders have now joined hands, but the rank and file do not intend to forget. The Socialists are going to add the Democratic vote to their tremendous majority. The campaign was the most unscrupulous ever conducted in Dayton. The city officials have persisted in pursuing a policy of extravagance and blundering. The three daily papers have buzzed with brags of efficiency, while evidence of incapacity has presented itself everywhere.

All the campaign plans of the old parties have failed. All that is left for them is to shout patriotism while they brag themselves out of office and the Socialists win a greater victory at the final election in November.

## Hardwick Of Georgia Starts Fight In U. S. Senate To Expose Post Office Conspiracy Against American Socialist

By JULIAN PIERCE  
Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senator Hardwick, of Georgia, has introduced a resolution in the United States Senate demanding that Postmaster General Burleson furnish the Senate with full information regarding the Post Office Department conspiracy by which Burleson and Lamar are attempting to kill the Socialist movement in the United States by excluding from the mails Socialist and radical papers, like The American Socialist, and then making use of technicalities discovered in the postal laws to deprive the papers of their second class mailing privilege.

"If this is to remain the land of the free," said Senator Hardwick, in commenting upon the Burleson-Lamar conspiracy against the Socialist papers, "and if freedom of the press and freedom of speech are not to become mockeries in this Republic, the Senate of the United States or the Congress of the United States can not afford to countenance any such proceeding as this or fail to condemn it."

Following is Senator Hardwick's resolution:

### HARDWICK'S RESOLUTION.

RESOLVED, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, requested and directed, if not incompatible with the public interest, to furnish to the Senate the following information:

First.—Whether or not, since the passage of the so-called espionage law, any newspaper, magazine, or other publications have been excluded from the mails or denied second-class mail-matter privileges under the provisions of said act or otherwise.

Second.—If so, the names and post offices of entry of such publications.

Third.—The particular provisions of the law which the department claims to have been violated by such publications.

Fourth.—In what matter, speci-

fically and particularly, the department claims such law has been violated by such publications, and by each of them.

In support of his resolution and the desirability of its prompt passage, Senator Hardwick made the following statement to the Senate:

### Hits Arbitrary Proceeding.

"I wish to instance one case that has recently occurred in which it seems to me that the position of the department is thoroughly indefensible. There is a publication in New York called the Masses, a magazine almost revolutionary in its type and in its sentiment. I am not prepared to either indorse or condemn many of the things that publication contains, but at the same time I want to direct the attention of the Senate, in this preliminary way, to what has happened in respect to that publication.

"Within the last few months that publication carried four cartoons representing its views on the pending public questions of gravest importance and moment. It had three or four articles with respect to its views on those same questions, one particularly assailing the President of the United States for his inconsistency in respect to certain views which he now entertains and certain positions that he now occupies, and comparing previous utterances of the President with his present utterances and his present positions.

On that account and for that reason, acting under certain provisions of the espionage law which it was alleged were applicable to the case, the Post Office Department denied this publication the use of the mails, and denied it entry as second-class mail matter. The publisher sued out a mandatory injunction

before the United States judge of the southern district of New York. That injunction came on to be heard and the presiding judge decided that without reference to the merits or demerits of the views and cartoons as contained in this publication they were merely a free expression of opinion as to governmental policy, and that as long as this remained a free country and its citizens continued to possess the right of free speech no one had the right to deny the right of this publication to express these views even if they did not concur therein.

"Therefore the court issued a mandatory injunction against the Post Office Department. Following that decision the Government appealed to the circuit judge of that circuit, presiding in Vermont, and that judge, I think his name was Judge Hough, under a provision of the judicial code authorizing it, suspended the operation of the mandatory injunction.

"Of course, that is just the history of what happened in a preliminary way. But now comes the remarkable part of it. Since all that has happened the Post Office Department has issued an order suspending the use of the mails as second-class mail to this publication because it has not been issued and published regularly. In other words, the Post Office Department, among other things—it may have other contentions, but this seems to be the principal one—first denied the use of the mails to this publication and finally, when held up in the courts with the only decision that has been so far made against them, turned to another provision of law and said to the publisher, 'Well, you can not continue to use the mails because you have not been

going regularly thru the mails at the time you were prevented from doing so by our order."

"IF THAT IS NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OWN OWN WRONG I DO NOT KNOW HOW ELSE TO PUT IT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IS TOO ARBITRARY A PROCEEDING TO BE COUNTERANCED IN THIS COUNTRY OF FREE SPEECH."

### KNOX DIDN'T HEAR.

"I should like to have the Senator from Georgia restate the position taken by the Post Office Department," interrupted Senator Knox of Pennsylvania. "I did not quite catch it."

"The Post Office Department has now excluded the Masses—that is the name of the publication—from the mails," continued Hardwick, "and denied it second class mailing privileges because the Department held that during the recent months, while this litigation was pending, it had not been going regularly thru the mails, and they fall back on another provision of the law which denies second-class privileges to publications that do not issue regularly and go thru the mails regularly, altho the only reason the Masses has not issued regularly, and has not gone thru the mails regularly, is because the Post Office Department would not let it do it."

"Mr. President, I am not excited about this matter. Personally I have a very warm regard for the Postmaster General. A friendship of years that I prize very highly exists between us. 'I do not know to what extent he has had anything to do with this matter or even if he knows exactly what has been done, but if this is to remain the land of the free and if freedom of the press and freedom of speech are not to become mockeries in this Republic the Senate of the United States or the Congress of the United States can not afford to countenance any such proceeding as this or fail to condemn it."

"So I say at the proper time, as soon as I can do it under the rules, I expect to ask the Senate to call on the Post Office Department for information with respect to these matters so that it may be seen exactly to what extent my information about this matter and matters of a similar kind is accurate. I think my information is accurate, and I have therefore presented this resolution."

### Like London's Resolution.

Senator Hardwick's resolution is similar to the resolution introduced in the House of Representatives on July 10, by Meyer London, Socialist Representative from New York City.

London's resolution was referred to the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Postmaster General Burleson addressed a communication to the committee urging that the committee report the resolution adversely. Burleson claimed that any information illustrative of the secret service methods by which Censor-in-Chief William H. Lamar guillotines Socialist papers would be incompatible with the public interest.

The House committee, acting as rubber-stamp statesmen, acted in accordance with Burleson's orders and presented an adverse report to the House.

### Senate More Liberal.

Since then Representative London has made several attempts to get his resolution before the House by unanimous consent, which is the parliamentary device by which an adversely reported resolution may be brought before the House. At each attempt some synchopant detester of liberty of the press and hater of Socialist social and economic ideas has objected to London's unanimous consent request.

## DOING OUR BEST!

We are doing our best, thru our representatives in Washington, to get action on our application for another second class mailing permit from the post office department.

Our application was duly made out and, accompanied by several copies of the issue of Saturday, August 18, was speeded on its way to Washington, D. C., Wednesday afternoon, August 15th.

It should have reached Washington, D. C., Thursday night and appeared at the post office department, bright and early Friday morning ready for its reception at the hands of Solicitor General William H. Lamar (the censor) and Third Assistant Postmaster General Dockery, whose department passes on second class mailing applications.

Our representatives were on the job Friday morning but were told that The American Socialist's application had not yet arrived. Of course, we cannot make affidavit to the contrary, but we have our suspicions.

Saturday, it was reported that Lamar and Dockery were out of town and that no action could be taken until they returned, which would not be until Wednesday, August 22.

This delay is causing us considerable inconvenience and if our readers do not get their paper thru the mails we hope they will be patient.

The magnificent response to our appeal for a FREE PRESS DEFENSE FUND has put a new fighting spirit into our blood. We know that everyone of our readers is going to see this fight thru. We are going to win. No power on earth can stop us from coming out victorious in our struggle with the autocratic powers now in control of the post office.

It is unnecessary to repeat that we need funds to stay in this fight and win a glorious victory. This is your fight. It is going to be your victory. You are going to help by rushing in your contribution NOW.

Here is a blank to save you the trouble of writing a letter.

## To Help Stick In The Fight And Win!

The American Socialist,  
803 W. Madison St.,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Enclosed please find \$..... as my response to your appeal for hurry-up action in the present crisis. I want to see The American Socialist get back its second class mailing privilege as quickly as possible.

With best wishes,

Name .....  
Address .....  
City ..... State .....







## Oklahoma Farmers In War On Bankers And Landlords

(Special Correspondence.)  
By IRWIN TUCKER.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—“Every bank in this state is an arsenal. All the clerks are being taught to and are expecting to use the guns in their vaults.”

This was stated to me by an eminent Oklahoma lawyer sitting calmly in an office here in the state capital.

“The issue is between the tenant farmers and the bankers and landlords. This draft resistance is just an excuse for the preliminary outbreak of what may prove to be a revolution.”

This time it was a judge who was speaking, a judge who as a democrat occupied the circuit court bench for many years, and who was a delegate to the Baltimore convention of the democratic party that nominated Woodrow Wilson.

“Since three months ago, I estimate that sixty thousand modern high powered rifles have been purchased by the farmers in this state. A few drydays have been captured, but they're on the trail too late.”

This was said by a former minister who has been touring the state with a Chautauqua company.

### Settle Old Grudges.

Here you have the elements of a situation that only waits for a show of force by the United States Government to break into flame. The “riots” in Seminole, Pontotoc and Pottawatomie counties resulted in the arrest of a few old men and young boys, mainly non-resisters. One or two old grudges were settled in the process. These “riots” were mere surface indications of what is going to happen—if Uncle Sam does not use all his tact. What is true in Oklahoma is true of Texas, Colorado, Arkansas and Kansas.

In the state penitentiary at McAlester in the death cell, which is only thirty inches wide and less than seven feet long sits “Good-Eye Huck,” otherwise Hon. Albert Huckleberry, a one-eyed tenant farmer who was for two years county commissioner of Seminole County. During his term of office he uncovered grafts, swindlings and thievery on the part of the democratic machine politicians who held the county offices hitherto. Hundreds of thousands of dollars had disappeared.

### Sees Good With One Eye.

“He sees more with his good eye than anybody else does with both,” is the common saying that gave him his nickname. Huckleberry got evidence sufficient to convict, after a long hard battle. The governor refused at first to have the accounts of the county audited. After he was won over, the state auditor pleaded that there were not sufficient funds. But Huckleberry, armed with a petition signed by 800 voters of the county, forced the investigation and audit which resulted in penitentiary terms being awarded a whole ring of grafters in Seminole County. They appealed, and are now out on bond.

The start of the trouble in these counties began with the swearing in of deputy sheriffs and sending them out to arrest the boys who did not show up for registration and examination. Where these boys were not found, their parents and neighbors were arrested, and old grudges were satisfied by the hauling along of many a Socialist agitator who had exposed the unparalleled rottenness and corruption in democratic Oklahoma—on the ground that they were “friendly to the draft resisters.” One of the Oklahoma daily papers makes great capital out of the discovery of one of the common Social-

ist pennants—“Workers of the World Unite,” which it proclaims is the “only one known to be in the state—in the house of one of those arrested for suspected friendliness with the draft resisters.”

Thus the natural opposition to the enforcement of the draft law in a state which was overwhelmingly Socialist in feeling, but which went for Wilson on the promise that he would keep us out of war, is being taken advantage of by bankers and landlords and chambers of commerce to suppress and dispose of the strong movement which was on the verge of riding the tenant farmers of Oklahoma of the worst and most outrageous gang of robbers that ever cursed a state. But they are overplaying their hand.

### Organize Into W. C. U.

The “Working Class Union,” of which so much is being written and said, was organized in this state two years ago—long before the draft was ever thought of. It is an organization of tenant farmers for mutual relief. It was formed to meet a special need. The Socialist Party cannot function between elections. The I. W. O. is not open to tenant farmers—only to wage laborers. Hence came the Working Class Union composed of tenant farmers. Starting in Van Buren, Ark., it has spread over Arkansas, Oklahoma and north Texas, and has some strength in Kansas and Nebraska, and all the other agricultural states where tenancy is common.

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED BANKS IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA HAVE BEEN COMPELLED BY SUITS ENGINEERED BY THE W. C. U. TO PAY BACK USURIOUS INTEREST EXTORTED FROM TENANT FARMERS.

LANDLORDS ALL OVER THE STATE HAVE BEEN COMPELLED BY THIS UNION OF TENANT FARMERS TO RAISE THE RATES AND LOWER THE RENT.

Hence the animosity between the “respectable citizens” and the W. C. U. The plea of “resistance to the draft” is a pretext.

### Junkies On The Job.

For example, for two years the W. C. U. has been meeting once a week in a certain locality. The officials know this. Acting on the strength of the present upheaval they surround the schoolhouse or the grove or the springs where the meeting is held and take every one prisoner on the ground that he is “opposing the draft,” when the actual reason is that he has been protecting himself against outrageous extortion.

The real purpose of the organization has been to teach the tenant farmers to act together. They meet to decide on a price for their labor and the proper rent they should pay for a farm. When a tenant farmer was found scabbing they lashed him a few times, burnt his crops, and scared him in other ways until he “saw the light.” If a landlord raised the rent, they saw to it that no one would rent his place.

Hence the landlords are opposed to the W. C. U.

### Bankers Big Robbers.

In this state the legal rate of interest is 10 per cent. But usury among the banks is so common that a compeller of the currency recently denounced them as thieves and robbers. Many of them charge—and extort—24 per cent and 40 per cent. Some have been known to demand 100 per cent—for one month! One tenant farmer came to a bank to borrow sufficient money to cover the funeral expenses of his daughter. The bank compelled him to sign a note for \$180, payable in one year. Eighty per cent interest! One bank in Muskogee county was compelled to give back a farmers mule, which it had seized in payment of usurious debt.

In McIntosh county, a prominent Socialist lawyer presented to the bank a bill for \$300 usurious interest he had extorted from a client. The banker laughed at him. When the lawyer had left, the banker went over to see the real estate man from whom the tenant farmer rented. Immediately the real estate man hatched up his buggy, drove out to the farmers place, and told him that he would let him clear off the farm in ten days or call off that suit. It was late in the season and to leave the farm then would have meant the loss of a whole year's work, together with all his credit. Besides this, if a tenant farmer is blacklisted by one bank, he cannot get land anywhere else in

that state. So the farmer told the lawyer to call off the suit. It was cheaper to pay the usury than to lose his year's labor.

### Nothing Is Done.

“The landlord holds the tenant farmer while the banker robs him,” is the way a minister put it to me. The W. C. U. fights this. Hence the bankers oppose the W. C. U.

The United States Industrial Relations Commission proclaimed the land conditions in Texas and Oklahoma to be a disgrace to the nation, to be unparalleled in any civilized country. But nothing has been done since that report was rendered.

## Battle On To Get Justice For Prosecuted Farmers

By T. A. HICKEY, Staff Corr.

SAGERTOWN, Texas.—Intense interest is evinced all over Texas as the date for trial approaches for the fifty-three Socialists and two sympathizers who will step into the dock in Abilene, Taylor County, West Texas, Sept. 1, charged with conspiring to resist the draft law.

These men are all members of a labor organization known as the Farmers and Laborers' Protective Association of America. They were indicted last June in Dallas by a federal grand jury on seven counts, the first two of which charge that they conspired in their local meetings and at the state convention of the organization held at Cisco, Eastland County, West Texas, May 5, 1917, to resist to the death any and all officers who would seek to arrest them for the draft and that they would dynamite railroad bridges, etc.

Fifty-one of the fifty-five men are submergers, land renters of the type spoken of by Frank Walsh in his report to the Government as being “on the verge of serfdom.” Five hundred men were subpoenaed before the grand jury, many of whom were afterwards indicted. Strange to say practically every man indicted was a Socialist, altho the organization is composed of members of the democratic party in the proportion of ten to one. They are held in bonds varying from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

I interviewed several of the principal defendants this week and they state that the whole case is a frame-up put thru by immensely wealthy landowners of the Postmaster General Burleson, Attorney General Gregory and Colonel Ed. House type, all of whom are bourbon democratic Texas politicians who have used the federal powers they control to smash a labor organization that menaces their interest.

These men say the frame up takes this form: They have an oath given to each member which is perfectly harmless; the secret service and private detectives are going to swear that the leaders had a second oath and that this oath called for the destruction of the government by violence. The men stoutly assert that if there is such an oath that it was coined in the warped brain of a private detective or was written by one of the innumerable “Texas Crowds” that live in and around the capital at Washington.

They further assert that no steps were taken at the Cisco convention to resist the draft law. There were 165 delegates present representing 205 locals. The convention was in session thirteen hours. There were six or eight violent speeches made in which all sorts of violent threats were made against the authorities. The convention hooted down, overwhelmingly voted them down and adjourned peaceably. It has since been discovered that these hotheads were actually cold-blooded private detectives and further that secret agents have rented farms, worked as day laborers on farms and public works, joined the union, became officers therein and were ever proposing violence. In short the “Texas Crowd” with their usurer connection played the old game of hiring the agent provocateur they assert.

One of the worst features of the predicament these men are in is that since the Rebel, with its twenty-five thousand circulation, was suppressed while running a series of war articles bitterly attacking the Kaiser and his military caste, those men are without a mouthpiece. The six hundred and ten weekly papers, thirteen semi-weeklies and forty-eight daily papers published in the state, with the possible exception of two Scripps papers, are as silent as the tomb. These men will walk to their doom in Texas without their side of the story having been told while the government's side has been told again and again and told with such a mass of vicious lies that the average man who knows the inside of the case is staggered by their amazing audacity.

When in Chicago recently I received positive assurance from members of the national executive committee that either Clarence Darrow or Seymour Steadman, the famous labor lawyer of Chicago, or possibly both would be sent to Abilene to defend these union workers as they believe that the Texas-Washington frame-up must be smashed and the organized labor movement among agricultural workers will be destroyed for years to come.

WOULD HURRY PEACE MEET. Russian Socialists have placed demands before the government to hasten the Stockholm Socialist convention. This news is contained in a cable the Jewish Daily Forward received from its Petrograd correspondent.

The cable follows: “The Socialist press is protesting vigorously against the stand the government has taken on the Stockholm convention. The paper published by the Workers' Council declares that Kerensky holds the same views in regard to the conference now as he did before. In Gorki's journal, Martov appealed to the provisional Workers' Council and the masses at large to bring pressure upon the government to make haste in calling the Stockholm gathering.

Counter revolution talk is slowly dying out in Russia, according to the cable.

## President Is Told About Attacks On Socialists

In response to President Wilson's suggestion that he would like to get a list of constitutional violations since the beginning of the war, the American Union Against Militarism has compiled such a list and sent it to the White House.

It will be noted that the provisions of the constitution were violated in most instances in order to make it possible to attack the Socialist Party or its officials and members.

Information was presented to the president as follows: “We present the record of eight indictments for crimes ranging from treason and conspiracy to simple misdemeanor, for the sole offense of criticizing the government's war policies or agitating for peace. These cases have occurred in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Grand Rapids, New York City, Pittsburgh, and Seattle.”

In Philadelphia thirteen persons were recently arrested and charged with treason for distributing a leaflet entitled: “Long live the Constitution of the United States,” which dealt in a lawful way with the constitutionality of conscription.

In Indianapolis an ordinance has been passed making it a misdemeanor, punishable by a heavy fine, “to speak disrespectfully of the President or the government of the United States”—the crime of lese majeste—or of circulating any matter which might prompt workers to demand better conditions or of labor in industrial establishments during the war.

“One man in New York City was arrested and sentenced to ninety days in jail for distributing leaflets which contained only quotations from the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

A post office employee in St. Paul was discharged after years of faithful service solely because he went on the bonds of three old friends charged with failing to register under the conscription act.

The evidence presented shows that federal district attorneys, United States marshals, local prosecuting officials and the police have acted in gross violation of the law in making arrests for opposition to war policies and agitation for peace. In many cities, as these affidavits show, men and women have been arrested without warrant, their private papers unlawfully seized and the opportunity denied them to secure bail or counsel for hours at a time.

The most striking single instance of violence on the part of the military was the breaking up of the Peace Parade in Boston on Sunday, July 1st. Beginning at the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Park Square, sailors and soldiers in uniforms followed this parade with the deliberate intention of breaking it up; they tore banners from the hands of the women, they beat and injured men and women; later they forcibly entered the Socialist Party headquarters, destroyed property and burned many valuable papers. The police did nothing.

Altho the War Department has issued orders forbidding soldiers to interfere with public meetings, the trouble has not ceased. A public meeting was broken up by United States soldiers in Seattle as recently as August 1st.

Soldiers and sailors at many so-called peace meetings have held and searched men for registration cards. Those unable to produce them they have turned over to the police who could produce either the cards or some evidence of the date of birth. Men both above and below the registration age have thus been unlawfully held for hours in many places without any charge being leveled against them and yet without the right to secure counsel or bail.

In Syracuse, New York, a young man who wrote on his registration blank in the state military census that he was opposed to participation in this war was proceeded against by the Federal District Attorney under the Espionage act for obstructing the recruiting and enlistment service!

“Seventeen issues of various publications have been declared non-mailable by the Post Office Department under the Espionage Act altho the Department of Justice has declined to recognize any of the publications as indictable under the same act.

“Furthermore the post office department has summoned the editors of several of these publications to show cause why they should not be withdrawn on the ground that ‘continuity of publication has been broken,’ knowing full well that the break in continuity of publication was caused solely by its own act in suppressing an issue. Denial of second-class privilege would mean the total suppression of the papers. It is inconceivable that the post office department will be allowed to proceed to such manifest tyranny unchecked.”

It is hoped that the president will carefully study this list of crimes against the constitution.

**Socialism and Peace**  
Seymour Steadman's Address at the Auditorium.

A masterly summing up of the way in which Socialism will bring an end to discord.

Single copy..... 5 cents  
50 copies..... \$1.25  
100 copies..... \$1.50  
1000 copies..... \$12.50  
National Office, Socialist Party,  
803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

### The Road To Power.

MANY thousands of Kautsky's great book, “The Road To Power,” have been sold. The original price was 25c per copy. We bought a lot at a cheap price and can let you have them at 10 cents each. This is a classic and should be read by every Socialist. Order now.—Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

The Russian autocracy vanished like a hideous nightmare before the rising sun of social democracy.

Forty thousand rail road engineers in Great Britain are threatening to go on strike.

The Socialists of Germany are again demanding that the government state its war aims.

Billy Sunday vouches for John D. Rockefeller and John D. Rockefeller vouches for Billy Sunday. The devil vouches for them both.

The unconquerable soul plucks hope from despair, courage from defeat, life from death, and thus makes itself immortal.

“Here's wishing The American Socialist success and may you always beat the censor to it,” writes one of our boosters in Rochester, Minn.

Earnings of members of the International Typographical union increased \$4,000,000 in the year ended May 31, according to officers of the union.

The class struggle is the struggle of the ages and its final victory will bring emancipation to the workers and brotherhood to all mankind.

If there is any man living who is wise enough to assign just one reason why the telegraph and telephone should be private property we would like to hear from him.

All signs point to a revolution in Spain in the near future. The railroad workers are on strike thruout the land. The miners and metal workers of the north are beginning to follow suit. Labor leaders have threatened a general strike. The government has proclaimed martial law.

Capitalist governments continue to exist solely by the ability of the few to fool the many. The ruling class know this; hence the hysterical activity of its lackeys at the present time in trying to control what the people shall read. These lackeys, however, do not see that this very excess of zeal results in showing some of the people how they are being fooled.

## Make Big Sweep Forward In Porto Rican Elections

By HARWOOD HULL.

(San Juan, Porto Rico, U.S.A.)

Twenty-five thousand votes for the Socialist party by the new American citizens in the Caribbean in the first election in which they voted caused a greater surprise even than the overwhelming majority by which the island recently voted for prohibition. It was the first time that the Socialist party as such had placed a ticket in the field, and both the Unionist and Republican parties, the two largest parties in the island, and whose candidates will make up the House and Senate of the new home-rule Legislature, are thoroly alarmed at the large numbers of voters the Socialists have drawn from their ranks.

The 25,000 votes for the Socialist ticket represent a fairly large proportion of the total of 170,000 votes cast in the election, and are significant when it is considered that the Unionist party polled 19,000 less votes than in 1914, while the Republicans lost 25,000 votes, as compared with three years ago. In 1914 the Labor party, the forerunner of the Socialist party, cast 4,000 votes; so that, while the Unionists dropped from a total of 107,000 to 88,000 votes, and the Republicans from 82,000 to 57,000, the Socialists jumped from 4,000 to 25,000.

## Praying For Peace

By WILLIS ANDREWS

Prayer is being advocated as a means of bringing about world peace. Since the inception of the present war whole nations have frequently set apart days for prayers to be offered up as a means to end war. But the more the people have prayed for peace, the fiercer the fighting has become.

While the desire to bring peace to a war-cursed world is most praiseworthy, the efficacy of prayer as a means to accomplish that end is questionable. True, all great achievements that have enriched the world necessarily were preceded by ideals of better things. But to merely pray for war to cease is not sufficient. Right thinking, correct understanding and the moral courage to espouse the cause of social justice must accompany humanitarian and altruistic promptings of the heart.

The law of causation applies to war as well as to every other physical fact. The man who merely wishes or prays for war to cease takes cognizance only of effects and is utterly unmindful of causes. This is fatal to any real solution of earthly problems.

In the last analysis wars are simply the outgrowth of antagonisms between the commercial rivalry of nations. And in this respect nations are but the reflex of individuals, and neither should be unqualifiedly condemned. The world has simply outgrown the economic system under which it has progressed and prospered. But the time has come for a readjustment of industrial relations. Capitalism is only a step in the march of civilization, following barbarism and feudalism, but while the system lasts capitalists must necessarily play their part in the scheme of things.

Under a co-operative, or socialist, system of industry, when the industries of each country will be owned by the people collectively, the people in each country will receive a reward for their labor equivalent in value to the wealth produced, thereby enabling the people to consume the goods produced by themselves. In this manner it will be seen that there would be no surplus of goods over and above what is needed for the markets, and as a consequence no cause for war between nations would ever arise.

But there must be a mighty awakening of people to loftier ideals of human relationship before wars shall be no more.

## Big Court Victory Frees 5 Michigan Socialists

“Not guilty” was the verdict returned against five Socialists in Detroit, Mich., charged with conspiracy as a result of distributing the edition of the Michigan Socialist which opposed the draft and which was declared unavailable by the post office. This sweeping victory, not only for the defendants, but for the whole Socialist party, was returned after the jury had deliberated 19 hours.

This vindication of the right to circulate literature opposing a law or asking for its repeal came despite frantic efforts on the part of politicians in the district attorney's office to “distinguish” themselves by securing a conviction.

Incidentally, it is believed the acquittal will prove of the greatest importance in the cases of the editor and the board of directors of the Michigan Socialist who are to be tried within a few days.

Herman Eberly, Max Wagman, Saul Parker, Arnold Fuhrer and Philip Thavis are the men who were cleared of the conspiracy charge. They were defended by Seymour Steadman of Chicago, Joseph Bernstein and Joseph Seltzer.

Miss Jeanette Rankin, congresswoman from Montana, has returned to Butte to investigate labor conditions. Three thousand people, mostly working poor miners, greeted her at the station.

Japan denied passports to the Stockholm Socialist conference. Hisomura Kwayama, New York, had been delegated to represent the Japanese Socialists at the international conference.

Senator Ashurst has submitted to the United States Senate a resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce of Phoenix Ariz., urging Congress to enact an industrial conscription law so that the mine owning capitalists of Arizona and other Western states may work their mines under involuntary servitude.

An attack on the delegation of extraordinary war powers to the president and a demand that congress remain in continuous session to prevent the president from using dictatorial powers were given publicity by the Republican Publicity Association, credited to former Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr., its organizer and moving spirit.

For the fifth time since America entered the war, “The People's Press, Philadelphia, Pa.,” has had an issue held up. The latest action of the post office censor was directed against the issue of August 22. The recent given by the authorities this time for the suppression is that only advertisements are published in the paper. The censor's argument is, that under these conditions, the sheet with blank columns is not a newspaper.

## AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGDAHL, Editor.  
Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1914, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.  
Second class privilege revoked Saturday, August 11, 1917, under censorship clause of Espionage Act adopted June 15, 1917.  
New application for second class mailing privilege made to post office department August 16, 1917.  
Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National Office, 803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

BUNDLE RATES.—Bundle of One Year to one dollar. 10 copies \$3.00; 25 copies \$7.50; 50 copies \$12.50; 100 copies \$25.00. Bundle Rates: Any issue: 1,000, \$7.50; 500, \$3.75; 200, \$1.50; 100, 75 cents.

SATURDAY, August 25, 1917.

## From The Firing Line

“Local Revels” has been reorganized and will go to work in earnest,” writes H. F. Jones, New Mexico, and in proof thereof sends in a list of eight subs.

K. Robinson, Ohio, is one of those fellows who is never satisfied. “It will look for more later,” he says, in sending in a list of five this week.

“Please hurry the papers along as they are anxious to read the truth—something they don't get reading the jingo papers,” says Wm. McDowell, Colorado, speaking of a couple of new subscribers he had just secured.

“It is up to every true socialist to ‘wake up’ in this, the greatest opportunity of our time for the world for Socialism. Nothing affords a better chance to do our bit in this waking up process than to get new readers for the American Socialist.”

“I have long been interested in Socialism but never so much as now,” confesses Mar- con, St. Louis, Colorado, as he subscribes and hopes that Socialism will soon end all wars.

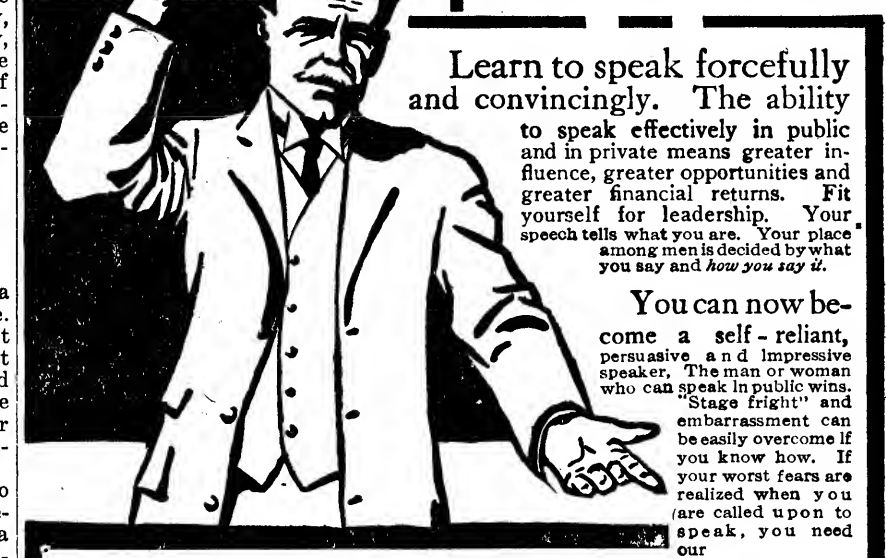
Comrade H. F. Weaver, Ohio, orders a bundle of The American Socialist for sale at a mass meeting planned in his town.

While the refreshments were being served at an entertainment being given by Local Delta, a “dumb-bell” took a copy of The American Socialist and went thru the crowd. Result: a list of ten subs. Comrade Rosa B. Anderson tells all about it in a letter just received.

The Joseph Fels International commission has issued a statement declaring that President Wilson's plea for low prices during the war will lose its effect unless taken to heart by landlords in fixing the price at which persons engaged in industrial and commercial enterprises will be permitted the use of the necessary land.

Bull, an anti-British magazine published in New York City, has been deprived of its second class mailing privilege. L. S. Bedford, the managing editor, declares that “The right of free press is not only the right to print but the right to read, and in depriving Bull the administration has interfered with the rights of thousands.

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You can now become a self-reliant, personable and impressive speaker. The man or woman who can speak in public wins. The man or woman who cannot speak in public is embarrassed and easily overcome if you know how. If your worst fears are realized when you are called upon to speak, you need our

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- at any occasion, without awkwardness or embarrassment.

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Just fifteen spare minutes daily devoted to our Effective Public Speaking Course will train you to speak at dinners or public meetings without resorting to notes—will give you a complete command of the English language—will teach you to argue effectively and convincingly—express your thoughts logically and forcefully—give you the power to “think on your feet”—to say your say in earnest, convincing language.

This Course is conducted under the personal direction and supervision of Professor R. E. Pattison Kline, Dean of the Public Speaking Department, Columbia College of Expression, Chicago, one of the foremost authorities on Public Speaking and Oratory in the country.

We have trained hundreds of men and women to speak clearly, concisely and forcefully. We have made it possible for them to increase their earning capacity, to become leaders in social and business life and we can do this for you—at home—doing your spare moments.

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# Organizer Wanted

Also to Act as Secretary for Local Portland, Oregon, Socialist Party,  
231½ Oak St., Portland, Oregon.

SOCIALIST, of National Reputation, one who has the ability to lecture, who has the push, and not afraid to do things. Salary \$100 per month. Office seekers need not apply.

Send all replies to

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803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

# New True Frightful! A German Deserter's War Experience

Tells what the German soldiers themselves think of their own “Military Machine.”

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803 WEST MADISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.



# SEIZE THEM ALL! KEEP THEM ALL!

**B**IG Headlines daily announce the progress of the great struggle between the coal mine owners and the governors of the thirteen middle Western states over the possession of the coal mines. Seizure of the mines seemed to have been determined upon by the state councils of defense, headed by Governor Lowden of Illinois, and legal counsel had been taken as to the proper method of procedure, when President Wilson was appealed to by the coal mine owners to prevent seizure.

Governor Lowden sent a burning telegram to the national council of defense demanding that they state immediately what they want and why and when. The President replied with a pacific message, stating that the State councils might rest assured that everything that can be done is being done.

Meanwhile the price of coal remains unsettled, and the power of a few private owners of that supreme public necessity, COAL, to block the unanimous and universal will of the people seems to be demonstrated.

The contest is more than an issue over a temporary necessity. Capitalism has shown its ugly head in the conflict over coal more plainly than even in the Great War. President Wilson, War Secretary Baker, Navy Secretary Daniels, and Secretary of the Interior Lane all appeared before the coal production committee on the national council of defense and asked of them, "Do you intend to coin into your own profits the lifeblood of our soldiers and sailors?" and they responded with an unanimous verdict "Sure we do!" The secretary of one of the Illinois companies assured the Governor that the plan of the coal mine owners was to grab all they could get away with in this present necessity.

So brazen is their effrontery that the cry is rising all over the country "Seize the mines!" "Let the Government operate them!"

Now, if this is done, it will—it must—mean that next the railroads must be seized and operated by the government, for coal

depends on the railroads. And with these two great industries in the hands of the government, the lesson will have been set and learned; that the only cure for the evils of capitalistic greed is socialistic common ownership.

At any cost, this first step toward Socialism must be averted, is the panic stricken fear in the hearts of the National Council of Defense. Anything that can be done to avert Socialism will be done. Anything and everything short of collective ownership of the coal mines will be proposed—and probably put thru—to solve the present coal muddle.

But the sullen anger of the people, stirred by the attitude of the coal mine owners, is kindled to fresh wrath at the attitude of the national government. Governor Lowden sees what is coming, and is man enough to try and break the quickest way thru.

Lowden represents the big manufacturing interests, which are the most vociferous sufferers from the high price of coal. In this division of interest between two despoilers of the people, the people are about to get their innings. Seizure of the coal mines and their operation without profit, if done by the existing government, will be the first lesson in Socialism. If it is denied by the existing government, it will be the strongest possible argument in favor of Socialism.

The greed of the coal corporations and of the U. S. Steel corporation are the most impressive lessons the country has ever received of the true meaning of Capitalism. Figures published by The New Republic show the reason for the "great unrest" in terse and compact form.

In 1913 the U. S. Steel corporation made a clear profit of 81 million dollars. With this it paid 7 per cent dividends on its preferred stock, 5 per cent on its common stock (all of which common stock is clear water and represents nothing but robbery) and had in addition 30 million dollars as surplus. This was a fairly profitable year.

In 1916, the profits of the corporation were \$271,000,000. During three months of 1917—the months just preceding our entry into the war—their profits were \$181,000,000. This would mean that profits for the whole year if kept up at that rate, would be at least \$724,000,000 and will without doubt go as high as one billion dollars—clear profit to be divided among the stockholders.

The basis of these huge profits were, of course, the raise in the prices of billets and plates. In 1913 steel billets sold for \$26.50 per ton; steel plates, \$33.60. Billets are the half way stage of the production of steel, and plates are the concluding stage as far as the manufacture is concerned.

In 1916 the price of steel billets was \$42 per ton, and of steel plates \$73.00 per ton—an increase of nearly 100 per cent on each.

In 1917 the price of steel billets is \$100 per ton, and the price of steel plates \$200 per ton.

Of course this tremendous increase is explained away by steel corporation officials by pointing to the great increases in wages they have been giving their workers. A ten per cent increase, then another ten per cent increase, then a seven per cent increase in the wages of labor—this, they say, requires additional profits.

Well, let us compare.

Between 1913 and 1917 the wages of workers in the steel corporation was raised on the average from \$1 to \$1.27. Twenty-seven per cent increase in the wages of labor—SIX HUNDRED PER CENT INCREASE IN THE INCOME OF CAPITAL!

Coal and steel are the absolutely essential requirements of every stage of the modern system of production. Every grain of food eaten requires the use of steel at every stage in its manufacture. The ground must be plowed—with steel plows; the grain planted—with steel drills. Harvested—with steel machinery. hauled to the mill—with steel trains; ground with steel; mixed and baked in steel machinery and ranges; and finally cut—with a steel knife.

Animals must be shipped, slaughtered, dressed, cut and cooked—all with the use of steel.

Every square inch of clothes one wears must be raised and spun and woven, dyed, cut and sewed with the use of steel.

Every shingle on the roof of a house is kept there with a steel nail; every plank in walls and floor; every joist, mantel, table and chair, must all be prepared with the use of steel.

Food, clothing and shelter depend absolutely for their production on steel. And when the price of steel goes up, the price of everything goes up in a multiplied proportion.

There is no question in the minds of any American citizens with any grade or degree of intelligence that the high prices of

steel and coal are due to greed and not necessity. They are waiting with more or less patience for the necessary remedy to be taken by the existing government. But the necessary steps are not taken by this government, dilly-dallying is adopted; the food controller devotes himself to petty economies instead of striking at the fundamental roots of the matter.

Steel and coal lie at the basis of the whole system of production in time of peace and of conflict in time of war.

Steel and coal are in the hands of a few thieves who have shown their thievery plainly in the face of all men.

Seizure of the coal mines and steel mills, and therefore of the railroads which connect them, is the only possible solution of the problem. If the government does not do this—and it looks as though it will not—then the next government will. For the next government is going to be a Socialist one.

## THE RED EXPRESS

**DEAR COMRADES:**—The Postmaster General has withdrawn from THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST the privilege of the second-class mailing rates, which is practically equivalent to suppressing the paper. We therefore face the necessity of organizing our own system of distribution. We have worked out a plan called THE RED EXPRESS, and we ask—and urge—your immediate, hearty, and continued cooperation with us; otherwise your national paper is in grave danger of losing its life.

Will you summon together IMMEDIATELY all the members of your local, at a SPECIAL MEETING, unless your regular meeting occurs within a few days after receipt of this appeal, and lay our plan before them? Unless you act at once, and can stir up the members of your local also to act at once, we might as well quit trying. Unless we can depend upon YOUR loyalty and YOUR earnestness at this time, we are indeed in evil case.

This is our plan:

1. Organize a Station of THE RED EXPRESS in your local, designating some one member as Station Agent. Papers for all the subscribers to The American Socialist in your city will be sent to him each week by express.

2. Establish a Station at Socialist Headquarters or at the home, office or store of some comrade who is centrally located.

3. Enlist as many volunteer workers as possible, who will agree to distribute the papers to the proper addresses, not for one week or two but, UNTIL THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST REGAINS ITS MAILING PRIVILEGES.

4. Have the Station Agent, with the advice and co-operation of the distributors, divide the subscribers according to wards, precincts, streets or neighborhoods and assign each distributor to the territory which he can most conveniently cover. Wherever possible the same comrade should cover the same territory each week.

5. In communities where the subscribers are widely scattered, on rural routes, etc., it will be possible, in many instances, with the assistance of comrades or sympathizers in the country, to deliver the papers as easily and as regularly as in the cities. Where this is impossible the Station should be managed and located so that rural subscribers could call and get their papers whenever they happened to be in town.

6. Whenever a local has a live and efficient literature agent, he should also be the Station Agent. Wherever there is already an organization for the distribution of literature, that organization should be used for the distribution of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST. You should not needlessly multiply offices or duplicate work and efforts.

The same workers and organization which delivers the AMERICAN SOCIALISTS should also handle such leaflets, advertising, or other matter as the local may have for distribution.

7. This is a test of our ability to do constructive, original work. WE SHOULD GLORY IN THIS CHANCE TO PROVE OUR POWERS OF CO-OPERATION. The people are more eager than ever before for THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST. Join THE RED EXPRESS; organize a Station; begin the work of distribution right away!

Fraternalty yours,

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

## "Seize The Coal!" Says Illinois

Seizure and operation by the state is recommended by the Illinois State Council of Defense in language as follows:

"Seizure by the state and operation by it during the period of the war of the coal mines in this state. Illinois is one of the leading coal producing states in the United States.

"The safety of the state and of its people overtops private interests.

"The seizure of the coal mines can be effected without the institution of judicial proceedings, and thus court delays be avoided. The right of the state in cases of this kind has for its foundation the security of sovereignty itself, and the doctrine of eminent domain and the police power support the right.

"The necessity that confronts a state in the exercise of its sovereign powers, whether for military purpose or for the safety and protection of the people, inherently require that the state shall have the power to take property for public use. The courts have held that where the state undertakes the payment of just compensation it is not necessary that payment should precede the use of the property by the state.

"If the state operates the coal mines during the war, a scale of prices for the coal mine can be established by the state and changed from time to time to meet varying conditions. The existing wage scale can, if conditions require, be increased by the state.

"The course here indicated will not violate the state or federal constitution, nor constitute an interference with interstate commerce."

It is urged that a council of representatives of neighboring coal producing states be called to take up this matter and that immediate steps be taken to bring about the passage of a federal law for seizing all the coal mines of the nation.

## Wipe Out Profits-- Power To President

Power to wipe out all profits in the production and distribution of the necessities of life is given to President Wilson by the one-man food control bill just adopted by congress. Some of its provisions are as follows:

Gives the president control over foods, feeds, fuel (including fuel oil and natural gas), fertilizer ingredients, farm machinery and tools.

Authorizes and empowers the president thru the federal trade commission to control, take over and operate coal mines and coke plants and to fix the price.

Prevents members of the advisory commission (mostly war profiteers) of the Council of National Defense from participating in government contracts.

Punishes hoarding and destruction of foodstuffs and speculation.

Allows the president to close grain exchanges, boards of trade, etc., in order to prevent speculation.

Authorizes the president to buy, store and sell wheat, flour, meat, beans and potatoes.

Allows him to take over factories, packing houses, pipe lines, mines or other plants and operate them

With power already placed in the hands of the president, this enables him to take from private control every industry of any consequence in the nation. This will be done, however, only if the demand for it from the great mass of the people becomes loud enough to compel this action.